

REQUIREMENTS FOR
SPECIALIZED SPECIAL EDUCATION, K - 12 CERTIFICATE
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

THE SPECIALIZED SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE QUALIFIES THE HOLDER TO TEACH STUDENTS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION, EMOTIONAL DISABILITY, SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY, ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENTS OR OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENTS AS SPECIFIED ON THE CERTIFICATE. ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SPECIALIZED SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE MUST BE MET. FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE. PURSUANT TO A.R.S. 15-534.03, EACH EDUCATOR MUST NOTIFY THE CERTIFICATION DEPARTMENT OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS WITHIN 30 DAYS. ALL DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING TRANSCRIPTS, BECOMES THE PROPERTY OF THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED. REQUIREMENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE FULLY REFERENCED IN THE ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES AND ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.

➤ **PROVISIONAL SPECIALIZED SPECIAL EDUCATION, K – 12 CERTIFICATE**

The Provisional certificate is valid for 2 years and is not renewable, but may be extended once for 2 years.

Requirements for the Provisional Specialized Special Education Certificate are:

1. A Bachelor's or more advanced from an accredited institution. Official transcript(s) required.
2. Option A, B, or C:
 - A. Completion of a teacher preparation program in the specified area of special education from an accredited institution.
 - B. Forty-five (45) semester hours of education courses from an accredited institution including 21 semester hours of special education courses and 8 semester hours of practicum in the designated area of disability.
 - Special Education courses shall include: 1. Survey of exceptional students; 2. Teaching methodologies for students with disabilities; 3. Foundations of instruction in the designated area of disability; 4. Diagnosis and assessment of disabilities; and 5. Electives in special education (if needed).
 - **Two (2) years** of verified full-time teaching experience in the area of disability in grades K-12 may substitute for the 8 semester hours of practicum. (Please submit a letter on official letterhead from the District Superintendent or Personnel Director to verify teaching experience.)
 - C. A valid Special Education Certificate in the specified area from another state.
3. A passing score on the elementary professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment.
4. A passing score on the specified disability special education portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment.
5. Verification of state approved Structured English Immersion (SEI) training. **Please see SEI requirements.** Note: Individuals who hold a Full Bilingual or Full ESL endorsement are exempt from the SEI endorsement requirement. The requirements for a Provisional SEI endorsement may be waived for a period not to exceed one year for individuals who graduate from administrator or teacher preparation programs that are not approved by the Arizona State Board of Education and meet all other applicable certification requirements.
6. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card (plastic) issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety (602) 223-2279.

NOTE: *If you otherwise qualify for the certificate but are deficient in Arizona and/or U.S. Constitution you have 3 years under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill the requirement, except that if you are teaching an academic course on History, Government, Social Studies, Citizenship, Law, or Civics, you have 1 year to fulfill the requirement(s).*

7. Arizona Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).
8. U.S. Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).

➤ **STANDARD SPECIALIZED SPECIAL EDUCATION, K – 12 CERTIFICATE**

The Standard certificate is valid for 6 years and may be renewed.

Requirements for the Standard Specialized Special Education Certificate are:

1. Qualify and hold the Provisional Specialized Special Education Certificate for **2 years**.
2. A passing score on the performance portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA). Currently, the assessment has not been developed. **Two (2) years** of verified full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the provisional certificate may be used to convert the Provisional Certificate to a Standard Certificate. (Please submit a conversion form signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel Director verifying **2 years** of full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the provisional certificate being converted.)
3. Verification of state approved Structured English Immersion (SEI) training to qualify for a Provisional or Full SEI endorsement. **Please see SEI requirements.** Note: Individuals who hold a Full Bilingual or Full ESL endorsement are exempt from the SEI endorsement requirement.
4. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card (plastic) issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety (602) 223-2279.